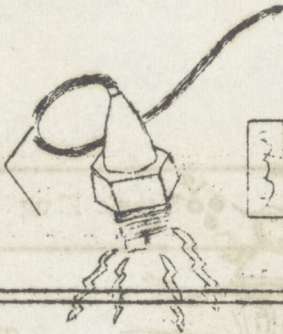


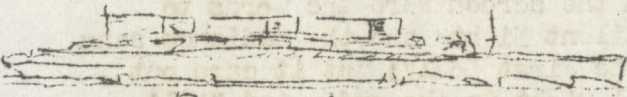
SPARK PLUG



BROOKLYN HIGH SCHOOL OF AUTOMOTIVE TRADES
50 BEDFORD AVENUE
BROOKLYN 22, NEW YORK

VOL. 12, No. 3

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BON VOYAGE

PRINCIPAL O'CONNOR RETIRES

On Thursday, November 30, 1961, a special assembly program was held in honor of Principal O'Connor, who is retiring after more than forty-seven years of service in the New York public school system.

After the regular opening activities, Mrs. Kurtz did the Scripture Reading. This was followed by testimonials from the following: Michael Yasso, 7V28, President of the General Organization; Mr. Marcel Brem, Chairman of the Staff Relations Committee; and Mr. James S. Tedford, Administrative Assistant. Mr. Witkowsky read a poem, "Godspeed!" which his son composed and dedicated to Mr. O'Connor.

Mr. O'Connor, in his response, thanked all for their cooperation and assistance, and urged "his boys" to continue on to the goal of a high school diploma.

Under the direction of Mr. Lacey, the School Band offered the following selections:

"Festival"	Olivadoti
"Waves of the Danube"	Ivanovici
"Automotive High"	Lacey

The final number listed is a march which Mr. Lacey composed and dedicated to Mr. O'Connor two years ago.

Mr. O'Connor was principal of the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades for eighteen years, and prior to that was administrative assistant to Mr. George F. Pigott, Jr., the founder of Brooklyn Automotive.

A graduate of the College of the City of New York, Mr. O'Connor obtained his Bachelor of Law degree from Fordham University in 1926 and his M.A. from New York University in 1938. He served as a lecturer in vocational guidance at Hunter College.

Mr. O'Connor is a veteran of World War I, during which he served in the U.S. Army as an airplane mechanic. He is a member of the American Legion, Schoolmen's Post, as well as of the N. Y. Schoolmasters Club and the New York Academy of Public Education.

PRINCIPAL O'CONNOR RETIRES (CONT'D)

He organized the Continuation School Teachers Association and held the office of treasurer of the Vocational High School Principals Association and of the Association of Administrative Assistants.

A banquet in Mr. O'Connor's honor is planned for the 24th of February at the Hotel Granada.

The assembly program was arranged and MC'd by Dr. James V. Cunningham, Chairman of the Department of Academic Subjects.

—Fred Steikovsky, 7V27

SHOP CLASSES VISIT LINDEN, N. J.

On Friday, January 5 and on Friday, January 12, certain shop classes visited the Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac Assembly Plant at Linden, New Jersey. Of course, some of the boys had made such a visit before; but it was quite a novel experience for your reporter.

As we arrived at the plant guides were waiting for us; and we, therefore, were able to start our visit without any loss of time. We first visited the welding department, where we saw workers welding different parts of the automobile together. The boys in the welding shop found this very exciting. Then we followed the whole assembly line. As we started we saw how they were welding the body together. We followed the body until it was ready for a paint job. We had to go upstairs to observe the paint job. I found this phase of the operation most interesting, as I am taking up painting in Mr. Peck's shop. After watching the paint job we followed the line back downstairs, where we watched them attach the motor to the frame. As we neared the end of the assembly line we saw how the entire engine is attached to the body. There were men all along the line who were in charge of certain bolts to see that they were on tight. As the car reaches the end of the line it is driven off by a test driver. That completed the tour.

(Article concluded on following page.)



CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY PROGRAM

Our annual Christmas program was held during a special assembly on Friday, December 22. Following the "Salute to the Flag," Leonard Jacob of 7V27 read a brief account of the Nativity, as recorded by Saint Luke. At this point Eddie Zahn of 4V17 took over as Master of Ceremonies and introduced a singing group called "The Lavenders." The Lavenders sang "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer" (in a special arrangement) and "One Summer Night." These two numbers were warmly applauded by the audience.

George Moeckel of 7V27 followed with a recitation of "Is There a Santa Claus?"—but he lost your reporter somewhere along the line, and I don't remember whether his answer was "Yes" or "No."

William Slobodkin of 8V28 showed us why he is Mr. Lacey's ace trumpeter by playing instrumental solos of "White Christmas" and "Pavanne." Slobodkin received a well-deserved round of applause. Of course, Mr. Lacey accompanied him on the piano, and it is quite possible that some of the sustained applause was meant for the pianist. Howbeit, Slobodkin knows what to do with a horn—make no mistake about that.

Your reporter then added his bit to the festivities with "The Errors of Santa Claus." Your candid reporter must report that this time there was no sustained applause.

As a change of pace, Mr. Lacey and the Band served up "Waves of the Danube." This was a top-notch performance. The Band never played better. The only thing missed was the sound of the violin. "Danube" means waltzing and violins—but after all, ours is a band, not an orchestra.

Michael Yasso of 7V28 was supposed to show us (or tell us) "How To Be a Santa Claus," but he was conspicuous by his absence. There! Maybe he'll show up next time!

"The Lavenders" returned to the stage and offered "My Baby" and "Over the Rainbow." Once again they were enthusiastically received.

Of course no Christmas program is quite complete without that jolly old man himself, and this one was not to be an exception for Frank Bove of 7V26 gave us "Santa Claus, Himself." It was a scoop—probably the first time that Santa has been caught doing the Twist.

CHRISTMAS ASSEMBLY PROGRAM (CONT'D)

The following community carols concluded the program:

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"
"Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"
"Silent Night"
"The First Noel"

On the screen were the words to "Silent Night" and the audience sang "The First Noel"; but it came out all right in the end. And "All's well that ends well."

The entire program was under the direction of Mrs. Kurtz and Mr. Lacey.

MEMBERS OF THE BAND

Arena	V29	Perkins	V 6
Baker	V22	Reeves	V29
Carter	V 6	Rizzi	V11
Chalmus	V11	Rodas	V28
Citriniti	V15	Rosado	V25
Coleman	V19	Slobodkin	V30
Goodwin	V18	Tillman	V 8
Harris	V22	Velazquez	V 8
Kostic	V20	Vellozzi	V21
Malomes	V13	Papuzza	V17
Mitchell	V15		

THE LAVENDERS

Campbell Cartwright
Lybrand Nicoletti
Pastorino Grant

Electric Guitar: Bennie Johnson

—Fred Steikovsky, 7V27

SHOP CLASSES VISIT LINDEN, N. J. (Continued from Page One)

While we were waiting for the rest of the class to catch up with us we were able to ask our guides many questions. Most of the seniors wanted to know how old one had to be in order to work there, and asked other particulars about the job. This didn't interest me so much, but the seniors found such information informative and useful. After the rest of the class caught up with us we went to the cafeteria for lunch. Shortly after lunch we headed for home. We returned to Automotive at about 1:45 P.M., and we were allowed to go home. Of course, that was all right with us.

I found the trip very interesting and very educational. I also found it somewhat bewildering: I still don't understand how they can turn out so many cars so fast.

—Lenny Hannibal, 5V20

THE SPARK PLUG

"To further advance interest in school and community"

Published seven times a year by the students of Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades, 50 Bedford Avenue, Brooklyn 22, N. Y.
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RESOLUTIONS FOR AMERICANS

At the beginning of a new year we offer the following list of resolutions which every American could well afford to adopt as his contribution toward making America a better place in which to live.

SAFETY—Not to take a chance on being responsible for a single traffic accident during 1962.

This means not to take the wheel of an automobile after imbibing what might be called even a moderate amount of alcoholic beverage; not to give in to the temptation to "show off" in a car, by excessive speeding, by passing other cars just to prove what a car can do, by beating other cars to the number one position at the stop light, by breaking all known records over a certain distance or route. It means slowing down, especially at night, and more especially still when it is raining or when there is ice or snow on the highway. It means in general respecting the traffic laws, and observing them conscientiously as a matter of principle.

COURTESY—To practice courtesy and patience, especially in crowds and while waiting in line for a train, a bus, a ticket, a show, or a purchase.

This means not to push ahead of others who have been waiting longer in line than you have; not to push and shove others or elbow them out of your way; not to demand of public officials and others in authority that you be given special consideration, as though your business were more important than

that of anybody else. It means excusing yourself when you accidentally inconvenience others in a crowd, and thanking those who have assisted you in any way, even though only in the line of their business.

CALMNESS—To respect the views of others on controversial subjects.

This means not to answer political or economic propositions and arguments merely by calling insulting names; not to raise your voice in arguing; not to refuse to consider the logic of the arguments of another because you are blindly prejudiced about your own point of view.

JUSTICE—Not to encourage class warfare by expressing anti-social or anti-national feelings even in jest.

This means not to pass on stories that reflect on Negroes, Jews, or any other specific group of Americans. It means not to use derogatory names; not to propose or support discriminatory actions against the people of another race or nationality; above all, never to speak of the faults of some members of a racial or national group as though they were attributable to all the members of that group.

RESOLUTIONS FOR BOYS OF AUTOMOTIVE

Fully aware of the fact that our parents and teachers must one day pass off the scene and that we of high school age today will be America's citizens of tomorrow, we boys of Automotive resolve:

That we shall honor our parents and respect our teachers at all times.

That we shall attend school regularly and arrive on time.

That we shall always have the necessary equipment (books, notebooks, rulers, pencils, pens, etc.) with which to work.

That we shall always respect the rights and the property of others.

That we shall not interfere with the orderly progress of the lesson by talking, dropping books, walking about the room, etc.

That we shall always conduct ourselves, both at school and away from school, in a manner that will reflect credit upon ourselves, our family, and our school.

That we shall always give evidence that we realize that getting an education is serious business, and that we shall do our best at all times.

(N.B. First part of the above article, "Resolutions for Americans," was reprinted in part from last year's December-January issue. ED.)

SPORTS ACTIVITIES



BOWLING NEWS

(FINAL P.S.A.L. LEAGUE GAMES)

NAME	CL.	GAMES	TOT. PINS	HIGH GAME	AV.
Saviano	3V 3	23	3630	228	153
Pastorino	3V 8	6	886	167	144
Poach	4V16	21	2994	232	142
Dammenberg	5V19	20	2809	166	140
Yasso	7V23	10	1409	192	140
Cook	3V12	13	1733	186	130
Scolaro	3V10	10	1325	159	132
Meadows	3V11	7	932	157	133

MEMBERS OF THE JUNIOR VARSITY

Creegan	7V25	Kennedy	4V17
Moeckel	7V27	Howe	3V12
Mirrione	5V20	Vecchiano	1T 2

The True Terms of Bowling:

Four-Step Approach—Faltering before striking up a conversation with the girl in the next lane.

Split—The position you'll assume if the floor is too highly polished.

Three-Timer—A guy who's been kicked out of two other leagues before coming to yours.

Good-Mixer—A so-so bowler, but a whiz at making a whiskey sour.

Working-Ball—Explanation for a lucky strike.

Turkey—a guy who misses a five-pin spare and costs your team the game.

Running-Lanes—The man behind the control desk.

Holding-Lanes—The in debt proprietor who won't sell out.

Gutterball—A ball picked up real cheap.

Four-Man Team—What's left when your fifth man's wife tells him to stay home that night.

Stuff on the Ball—Dirty alloys

Practice Ball—A wasted strike

Singles League—Everyone is looking to get married.

Major League—Retired army officers decide to bowl together.

A 300 Game—Total score of five housewives, each of whom averages 60

Light Hit—Someone broke a bulb.

Jersey Strike—Hudson Tube worker walkout.

The 7-10—First train out of Valley Stream.

Big Fill—Bowling on a full stomach.

BOWLING (CONT'D)

Although the P.S.A.L. season has ended, Mr. Caravaggio will still meet with the bowling team on Tuesdays. Bowling practice sessions are held each Tuesday at the Mr. Carmel Lanes. Each game will cost 35 cents, including bowling shoes for G. O. members.

Boys interested in bowling should contact Mr. Caravaggio in Shop 233.

---James Carman, 5V19

AUTOMOTIVE CHESS CLUB IN SESSION

Last September Brooklyn Automotive was invited to send a representative to participate in the Metropolitan Interscholastic Chess Tourney. Larry Rizzo of 5V21 won the brief competition for a school representative, and made a fair showing in the tournament, winning 25% of his games there.

Since then the Automotive Chess Club has become a very, very active group. It is hoped that by the time the interscholastic team matches (scheduled for the Spring) get underway we will have a well-qualified group prepared to participate.

Leading the group of approximately 20 boys who meet in Room 262 each day during the 6th period is Larry Rizzo, who has won 18 1/2 games—the next in line being Joseph Saparito, who has won 7 1/2 games.

Boys interested in becoming members of the Chess Club are requested to contact Mr. Jackson in Room 262, at the start of the 6th period each day.

BASEBALL TRYOUTS

Coach D. Praver has announced baseball tryouts for the middle of February, the exact date to be announced later.

All candidates should come equipped with baseball gloves and sneakers.

Tryouts will be held in the Gymnasium.





THE HUMOR CORNER

HEARD ON THE RADIO

Irma: "My cabin on the ship was nice, but I didn't like the washing machine on the wall."

Kay: "Washing machine? That was a porthole."

Irma: "No wonder I never got my clothes back."

STATE OF TRANSITION

Tommy: "Mom, is it true that we come from dust and will return to dust?"

Mom: "Yes, dear, that's what the Bible says. Why?"

Tommy: "Well, I just looked under my bed and there's somebody there, either comin' or goin'."

BAD PICTURE

There was the gunman who walked up to a theatre cashier, stuck a gun in her face, and growled: "The picture was horrible—give me everybody's money back."

HEAD OF THE CLASS

A teacher in Brooklyn said, "Joey, give me a sentence using the word 'bewitches!'." After deep thought, Joey replied, "Youse go ahead. I'll bewitches in a minute."

NO NEED FOR IT

Mother: "Did you thank Mrs. Jones for the lovely party she gave?"

Mary: "No, mummy. The girl leaving just before me thanked her, and Mrs. Jones said, 'Don't mention it,' so I didn't."

HE KNEW

The policeman stopped the man going down the street clad only in a barrel.

"Are you a poker player?" the voice of the law demanded.

"No, I'm not," the culprit replied, "but I just left some fellows who are."

HIS MISTAKE

Prisoner to fellow inmate: "I was making big money—about a quarter of an inch too big."

EXPERIENCED

A woman autoist posed for a snapshot in front of the fallen pillars of an ancient temple in Greece.

"Don't get the car in the picture," she told the photographer, "or my husband will think I ran into the place."

RETORT

Waitress: "This is your fifth cup, sir; you sure must like coffee!"

Diner: "I most certainly do; that's why I am willing to drink all this water in order to get a little of it."

NOW GIRLS!

Mrs. Moore: "That's a very lovely coat you're wearing, Mrs. Jones."

Mrs. Jones: "Oh, thank you. My husband gave it to me for my thirty-fifth birthday."

Mrs. Moore: "My word. It certainly wears well."

TRADE IS GOOD

Friend: "Why do you have such misspelled and ungrammatical signs in your front window?"

Merchant: "People think I am a dunce, and come in to swindle me. Business is just fine!"

THE DIPLOMAT

"Two!" shouted the pint-sized umpire.

"Two what?" snarled the big catcher.

"Yeah, 2 what?" echoed the equally large batter.

"Too close to tell," said the umpire.

IN SCHOOL, NO APPLES, NO NOTHIN'

The teacher was trying to impress on the children how important had been the discovery of the law of gravitation.

"Sir Isaac Newton was sitting on the ground, looking at the tree," she said. "An apple fell on his head, and from that he discovered gravitation. Just think, children," she added enthusiastically, "isn't that just wonderful?"

A small boy replied, "Yes'm; an' if he had been settin' in school lookin' at books, he wouldn't never have discovered nothin'!"





MY ENCOUNTER WITH RADIO

I guess everybody has dreams as a child. Dreams can be wonderful, or they can be nightmares. I have often dreamed of stardom. My first day-dreams carried me into the world of baseball, but inwardly I knew this could never be.

So I turned to acting. After three months of studying my first break came.

A classmate said to me, "Come on down to the Municipal Building on Monday at 6 P.M. for a radio audition."

I thought to myself how could I, George Moeckel, a nobody, dare show my face in a radio studio--to say nothing of auditioning! I was scared, in fact so scared that I began to tremble. The days passed slowly, every second a year, every hour a century.

On my way to the subway station that Monday I started laughing--or maybe it was crying--I couldn't tell. My mind was in such a daze that I was only half-conscious of what was going on. Putting the token in the turnstile, my hand trembled. I felt cold and started to shake. My ears were buzzing, and my head started to spin.

After the longest hour of my life I arrived at the Municipal Building. Then up to the twenty-fifth floor, where the WNYC Studio is located. Walking through the corridor, I felt strangely at ease. The feeling was unparalleled in my life. Into Studio C I went. Before I could do anything, the Director, Kitty Kirby, handed me a script to read. All my blood stopped. The first word seemed to run into the second. I got scared, repeated it quickly, and then something snapped. I started to talk fluently, quietly, with emphasis and great poise. I made it; I was ready to work. I was so happy.

Now I can make my mark--or at least give it every bit of energy granted to me.

This wasn't my first ideal. But maybe baseball was merely a dream--not a reality.

However, this is reality. In acting I can succeed!

---George Moeckel, 7V27



HIGH SCHOOL PRESS COUNCIL MEETING

On Wednesday, January 10, your editor, along with two other staff members, attended a meeting of the High School Press Council at the New York High School of Printing.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. James Hagerty, head of the news department at WABC-TV. Mr. Hagerty spoke on such topics as space, communications, television, radio, politics, etc. He made one remark that was very meaningful to me: "The power of the atom should be used for the advancement of science, rather than for the destruction of the world." You will remember that Mr. Hagerty was President Eisenhower's press secretary during the latter's two terms in office.

At the meeting we met two very lovely and charming young ladies from Julia Richmond High School of New York City. The girls interviewed us for their school newspaper.

The boys who went with me were Carmen Gaglio of 7V27 (assistant editor and chief cartoonist) and Harold Williams of 7V27 (cartoonist).

---Donald Maciejewski, 7V26

CHRISTMAS FOOD DRIVE

Our Christmas Food Drive was a huge success this year, and a word of thanks is in order to all the teachers and students who cooperated so beautifully.

We had a lot of donations, both in money and food; however, especial thanks go to the A.&P. Food Store, which donated \$20.00 worth of food items, and to Mr. Manopoli, whose shop class donated 375 pounds of sugar. Money collected amounted to about \$300.00.

Receiving organizations were: St. Vincent's Home for Boys (Catholic); Pride of Judea Home (Jewish); and St. John's Lutheran (Protestant). Each organization got about 20 boxes of food.

Mr. Bernstein directed the Food Drive and--as always--did a magnificent job.

---James Carman, 5V19

ALWAYS A GENTLEMAN: That's our motto.
LET'S LIVE UP TO IT--EVERY DAY AND IN
EVERY WAY!

REMEMBER: A LITTLE BIT OF COURTESY
COSTS SO LITTLE--AND GOES SO FAR!